

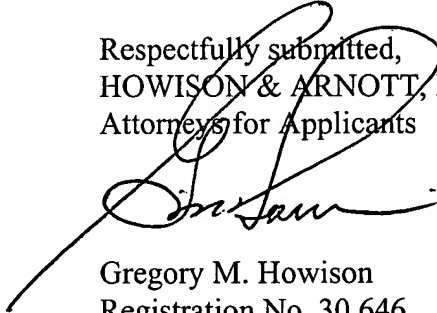
**REMARKS**

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 12, 2003. Claims 1-52 are noted as pending in this application. A Preliminary Amendment prepared and filed on May 20, 2002 was not entered. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

At present, Claims 1-52 have been noted as pending in this application. This application was filed initially with Claims 1-52 on February 25, 2002. However, a Preliminary Amendment was filed on May 20, 2002. A copy of that Preliminary Amendment is attached hereto. Applicants note that this Preliminary Amendment should have been entered. Applicants hereby request that this Preliminary Amendment now be entered. With the entry of this amendment, the rejection of the Claims 1-52 is moot. Applicants respectfully request that the claims that were filed in the Preliminary Amendment on May 20, 2002 be prosecuted and that a Final Rejection not be entered in this matter.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PAVI-25,964 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**  
S/N 10/082,783  
Atty. Dkt. No. PAVI-25,964